



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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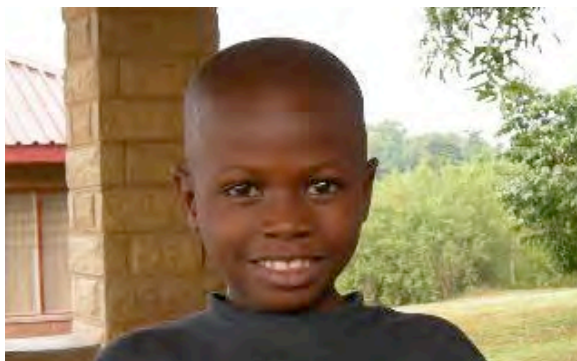
"But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. For surely; O LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favour as with a shield"
(Psalm 5:11-12 NIV).

Dear Friends and Family,

Mwiriwe. Amakuru? (Hello. How are you?). This is the greeting in Rwanda to which I am again becoming accustomed, now that I have returned home.

I have been blessed during the past five months that I spent serving at the Rafiki Village Uganda. Not every ROS (Rafiki Overseas Staff) gets the privilege of helping at another Rafiki Village, gaining so much practical experience in the operations of a Village, while at the same time being a part of the "start up team" for a new Village.

As I look back at the highlights of my time in Uganda, what stands out the most is the privilege I had of being a part of welcoming the new children who came to live in the Rafiki Village during the time that I served there. Seeing sad, and often fearful eyes staring up at me as we were introduced and then watching over the next couple of days as those eyes lit up with the reflection of hope and a sense of belonging and a feeling of being loved, is an emotion that is hard to put into words. God surely spreads His protection over these special children that He has placed into Rafiki's care.



BRIGHT SMILES

Another special moment was having one of the new children run up to me after his first day in the Rafiki Village, throw his little arms around my legs, bury his face in my skirt and then look

up at me with the brightest smile you can imagine. This little guy who spoke not a word of English must have instantly felt that he was loved. God has given me many opportunities to experience His love through the love of these children.

My move came sooner than my Ugandan teammates and I expected, but I was needed back in Rwanda. Of course nothing takes the Lord by surprise. In His perfect timing, God had already provided my replacement teacher. Joyce is a wonderful, kind, loving teacher to "my" three-year-old class. It's amazing how quickly and deeply little children creep into one's heart. My biggest concern about returning to Rwanda was "Who would teach my little ones?" God provided as He always does.

While I was in Uganda my Rwandan teammates, Tim and Patty Yoss, enjoyed an encouraging visit from Rosemary Jensen, (Rafiki's General Director), Chris Moyer, and Richard Walenta (Architect and Building Manager).



TIM, ROSEMARY, CHRIS, AND RICHARD

The Rafiki Village ground breaking went well. There were about 1000 people in attendance. A memorial cornerstone was laid by Rosemary and church and government leaders commemorating the construction commencement of the Rafiki Village in Rwanda.



ROSEMARY HELPS WITH LAYING THE MEMORIAL CORNERSTONE

After the groundbreaking, Rosemary was able to meet with First Lady Jeannette Kagame as well as with the U.S. Ambassador and USAID representative.

Things continue to move forward as the trenches are dug and ground is prepared for the foundations of the first of the buildings that are to be constructed in our Village. During the first phase, we will build three ROS houses, six children's cottages, a guest house, dining hall, kitchen, and laundry.



SOME OF THE AFRICAN TOOLS USED AT THE BUILDING SITE

It is exciting to watch as my new home rises up out of the red dirt of Africa. I look forward to the day when many children's voices will be heard all over our Rafiki Village. What a day of rejoicing that will be!



PATTY AND ME ON THE SPOT WHERE MY HOME IS BEING BUILT

God's timing is always perfect, as is His timing for this newsletter. If you do not hear from me via e-mail for a while, it is because my computer has crashed and I am sending it to the States to be repaired. I am not sure how long it will take before it is up and running again, so please be patient. I am blessed to have teammates who will let me use their computer to check my e-mail, but unfortunately all my e-mail addresses are on my own computer, so for the moment I can only respond to new e-mails received. Please feel free to drop me a short note so that I have your e-mail address during this "black out time" while my computer and I are separated.

Praises:

- The privilege of serving five months in Uganda
- The commencement of construction on the Rafiki Village in Rwanda
- For 100% of my financial support during my first two-year term with Rafiki
- For Ken Merrill, an experienced builder, who will be coming to help us with construction for six weeks (Ken and his wife, Bev, are currently raising support to go to Malawi as ROS.)

Prayer Requests:

- For safety and integrity of the builders
- For continued good health: emotionally, physically, and spiritually
- For 100% of my financial support needed for my next two-year term (Jan '07 – Dec '08); I am currently at 16% of the amount needed to keep me on the field for the next term.

Thank you for blessing me through your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. It would be very difficult for me to be here if it were not for your faithfulness. I love and appreciate you.

Rejoicing in Him,

 CRICKET

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